

September 9, 2019

CITY OF WASHBURN COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

5:30PM Washburn City Hall

Present: City Council Members: Mary McGrath, Karen Spears-Novachek, Tom Neimes, Jennifer Maziasz, Laura Tulowitzky Carl Broberg, Aaron Austin

Municipal Personnel: Mayor Richard Avol, City Administrator Scott J. Kluver, Assistant City Administrator Tony Janisch, City Attorney Max Lindsey, Director of Public Works Bob Anderson

Excused Absence: none

Call to Order - Meeting called to order at 5:30PM by Mayor Avol. Roll call attendance depicted seven (7) of seven (7) members of the Common Council in attendance. Quorum of the Council recognized.

Approval of Minutes – City Council Meeting of August 12, 2019 - A motion was made by Novachek to approve the August 12, 2019– minutes, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Expenditures- A motion was made by Novachek to approve the monthly expenditures, second by Austin. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote of all seven (7) councilors in attendance.

Public Comment – Jeff Silbert, 410 E 5th Ave, Bayfield Co. Board Supervisor of District 6, member of the Regional Housing Study Group. Mr. Silbert encourages the City's support of this study of the regional housing inventory shortage. He invites the Council to an informational meeting at the County Board Room on Monday, Sept. 16. This study will provide tools, data and information to take steps to solve out housing issues, with hopes to address workforce development. Mr. Silbert asked the City to invest \$3,000 and join community neighbors in support of this study. Jay Pringle, owner Auto Spa Carwash & Laundromat 631 W Bayfield St. Mr. Pringle is questioning the proposed two-way left turn lane on Bayfield St. He's seen no issues in front of his business. Mr. Pringle is concerned that with a center turn lane, the traffic lanes will be closer to the curb could be a hazard. As well as problems at the entryway of his business and the gas station.

Mayoral Announcements, Proclamations, Appointments- The Mayor noted a vacancy on the Harbor Commission. He further announced two upcoming events: Solar Energy Tour, including the Waste Water Treatment Plant new solar array on Sept. 29th and the Library Gala fundraiser on Sept 21st. He also thanked the following donors to ball field project: North Coast Car Show, Grace Bible Fellowship, Mick Anderson, Mike Brinelle, C&W Trucking. The Mayor recognized the life and passing of two long-time residents Shirley Haugen and Florence Hedican-Nies.

Presentation, Discussion & Action Electric Bus Purchase for BART and Contribution to Project – Pat Daoust, Petitioner – Mr. Daoust stated that BART received a grant of \$500,000 for funding 85% of two electric buses & 90% of the charging stations and infrastructure. One of these buses will replace the Blue Goose that services Washburn. BART is asking for a one-time contribution from communities to offset costs. The cost of one bus is \$129,000. Moved by Broberg to approve relocation of \$5,000 to contribute to the purchase of a new BART electric bus, second by Tulowitzky. Maziasz questioned if funding would be from the current budget. The Mayor stated yes, using funds from the Mayor's continuing education line and the remaining amount from the Bayfield St. flowers line. Motion carried unanimously.

Update & Discussion on Regional Housing Collaboration Efforts – Kelli Pederson, UW-Madison Extension Bayfield County, presented information about the Bayfield/Ashland Counties Regional Housing Study project. There are several factors that effect housing needs, including an aging demographic particularly in Bayfield Co. Community members have meet with the Wisconsin Housing Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), who would like to work on this issue providing communities can work together. Ms. Pederson referenced a Barron Co. study as a model for gathering data. A way toward affordable housing are for developers to leverage federal tax credits. However, this is competitive and can be a disadvantage for rural communities. Scatter development may be a solution. Instead of one community receiving a large

development, small developments (housing units) are scattered over a larger geographic area. Packaging the needs to fit the community. Not a silver bullet, but silver buckshot approach. The study group identified a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) with a 2:1 match to fund the study. The Northwest Regional Planning Commission has stated they would write this grant on behalf of the communities. When presenting costs, Ms. Pederson suggests that surrounding towns may not need a housing study but that this data may be important to the City, and the City may want to consider funding the study costs in the neighboring towns.

Discussion ensued. Novachek questioned if the neighboring towns have been contacted, wondering if they would participate in costs. The Mayor stated no and that he would like to know how the Council would like to proceed before discussion with neighbors. Austin stated support of the study and the importance of seeking data from surrounding communities. Maziasz agreed and likes the idea of scatter development. McGrath likes that the study identifies other topic area. Novachek stated that the gained information could be of interest for developers. She further questioned if scatter development had been used in Barron Co. Ms. Pederson stated that she believed scatter site development is being planned and that the Barron Co. study has created a lot of interest with developers.

Discussion & Action on Adopting the Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance No. 19-009 Addressing Greenhouses in Commercial Zoning Districts - There was no discussion. Moved by McGrath to adopt Ordinance No. 19-009, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Adopting the Proposed Zoning Amendment Ordinance No. 19-010 Addressing Earth Materials Stockpiles in the Marina District – Attorney Lindsey stated this is an update to an ordinance to conform with an activity that is currently occurring. Moved by McGrath to adopt Ordinance No. 19-010, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action on Adopting the Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment No. 19-011 Addressing Land Use Definition of Accessory Dwelling Unit - Moved by McGrath to adopt Ordinance No. 19-011, second by Austin. Kluver stated this amendment addresses confusion and inconsistencies with the definition of accessory dwelling unit, or in-law homes, an additional dwelling on the same property. The Planning Commission's recommendation is not to change the current practice; above a garage, splitting a property or an addition to an existing home. It does not allow for a secondary dwelling on the same property. Discussion continued. Novachek, McGrath, Broberg, Austin, Neimes voted in favor; Maziasz, Tulowitzky voted against. Motion carried.

Discussion & Action on Ordinance No. 19-012 to Allow Police Enforcement of Harbor Commission Rules – Broberg stated that there has been damage to boats due to fishing at the marina, and that Marina staff do not have the authority to enforce the rules. Additionally, commercial activity at the Coal Dock can be a hazard to anyone fish there. Neimes questioned if fishing on the break wall was allowed. Broberg responded that fishing was allowed on the outside of the break wall, outside the marina. Moved by McGrath to adopt Ordinance No. 19-012, second by Broberg. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion & Action STH 13 Design Plans for 2024 Reconstruction Project – Kluver acknowledged that this topic came up fast, we will discuss with the DOT how we need to schedule more time when they are requesting our input, however we do need to keep a tight timetable to keep this project on track for 2024. We are seeking decisions on the recommended two-way center turn lane and any other intersection enhancements that the City may desire. Based on public input thus far, the majority would like parking lanes to remain. The Mayor stated that he went door-to-door and spoke with or left information with the business or individuals most affected by a center turn lane. He did, however, speak with a number of people who overwhelmingly did not like a center turn lane. Discussion ensued regarding location and length of a turning lanes and parking lanes, including the suggestion by the DOT vs a turning lane only at the Hwy C intersection. Broberg suggested a turn lane at Hwy C and maybe Washington Ave. Tulowitzky moved to open the floor, second by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Mike Defoe, 920 W Bayfield St, does not like the idea of a two-way passing lane on Bayfield St., but rather would like to see lanes along the east side Washington Ave and Hwy C. He gave another suggestion for a lane at Central Ave for boat trailer traffic. Dave Anderson, 617 W 7th Ave, questioned if community enhancements along Bayfield St is being planned at this time. The Mayor clarified that enhancements will come in a later discussion, the topic now is specifically Bayfield St. Mr.

Anderson further shared his support for curb bump-outs. Discussion further ensued regarding location and length of turning lanes if they were at isolated intersections like at Hwy C or Washington Ave. Moved by Neimes to reject the DOT's recommendation for a center two-way turning lane along Bayfield St. from 10th Ave W to 5th Ave W, second by Maziasz. Motion carried unanimously. Discussion continued regarding the length of a dedicated left turn lane at the Hwy C/W 8th Ave intersection. Council further discussed traffic flow at the Hwy C intersection and the using curve bump-out at other intersections to reduce traffic speed. Moved by Tulowitzky to include a limited left-hand turning lane on Hwy 13 at the Hwy C/W 8th Ave. intersection, second by McGrath. Novachek, Maziasz, McGrath, Tulowitzky, Broberg, Austin voted in favor; Neimes voted against; Motion carried. The Mayor stated that a Traffic Signal (Stop & Go Light) was not recommended by the DOT at the intersection of Bayfield and Washington Streets, but was a suggestion. Maziasz stated that she was glad the DOT did a study and that it did not justify a signal light and suggested a bump-out instead. No further discussion was had regarding this. The Mayor further stated that Pedestrian Beacons were not recommended by the DOT but that the idea had been suggested. No further discussion occurred in this. Discussion began regarding curve bump-outs. Several council members stated support for this idea. Neimes listed the following possible locations: W 3rd Ave, Washington Ave, Central Ave, and W 5th Ave intersections. Public Works Director Anderson stated that bump-outs can be placed at two or four corners of the intersection, but if you have them on one side you should have them on the other. Either the north side, the south side or both. He further stated that bump-out do inhibit turn radius and would not suggest one on Central Ave because of the trailers and trucks that turn down to the marina. Moved by McGrath to include bump-outs at all four corners of the Washington St. and Bayfield St. intersection, second by Novachek. Maziasz stated that by doing bump-outs at Washington we would lose parking. It was noted that parking had already been reduced at the intersection. Motion carried unanimously. Neimes stated that W 3rd Ave should be a safety route for children. Moved by Novachek to include bump-outs at all four corners of Bayfield St. at the intersection with W 3rd Ave., second by Austin. Maziasz stated that this would take away prime parking spots in the downtown area. Discussion occurred with how much parking length would be lost from bump-outs. Neimes stated that safety should be the first priority at this intersection. Novachek stated that it was not just children that use this intersection, the residents in this area have concern crossing the street. Motion carried unanimously. Neimes suggested W 5th Ave as a location for a bump-out. Discussion ensued, there was no motion made for this location. The Mayor suggested removing parking at the Central Ave intersection to make sight-lines easier for traffic pulling out from Central Ave. McGrath moved to close the floor, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentation, Discussion & Referral of 2020 General Fund Operating, Capital, and Debt Service Budgets – Kluver provided an overview of the Operating, Capital and Debt Service budgets. He stated that there will still be tinkering as a few final costs come in. These budgets do not address the wish lists of the City, but rather address the priorities. The budget does include restoration at Central Ave from Bayfield St to the Marina, the West End Boat Ramp, and some improvements at City Hall. Comprehensive planning is not included in the budget, neither is sidewalks. Kluver further stated that the City needs to increase its tax base. The Mayor asks council members look through the budget carefully and to make suggested changes to the Personal/Finance Committee members. Maziasz questioned additional funding for Homecoming. The Mayor stated that this was his request to showcase the City to visitors. Maziasz further stated that development projects like the proposal on Omaha St. are not moving forward because lack of information. This planning is lacking the budget and we need to be creative and find ways to gather this information. Moved by McGrath to refer the 2020 General Fund Operating, Capital, and Debt Service Budgets to the Finance & Personnel Committee, second by Novachek. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by McGrath, seconded by Neimes. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Tony Janisch
Assistant City Administrator

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING 4:30PM

Committee Member Karen Spears Novachek, and Aaron Austin reviewed monthly expenditure vouchers.